

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 AID-05 IO-13 SSC-01 /090 W
-----075689 241550Z /43

R 241315Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6885
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST UNN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, IS
SUBJECT: SURVEY OF EARLY PERSONNEL CHANGES EFFECTED BY BEGIN
GOVERNMENT

1. BRIEF INDIVIDUAL CEREMONIES, WIDELY FEATURED IN THE
PRESS, MARKED THE TRANSFER OF MINISTRIES TO MEMBERS OF
THE NEW CABINET ON JUNE 21. IN RELINQUISHING THE
FINANCE MINISTRY TO LIBERAL PARTY HEAD SIMCHA EHRlich
YEHOShUA RABINOWITZ URGED HIS SUCCESSOR TO CONTINUE
THE EFFORT TO REDUCE INFLATION AND FOREIGN PAYMENTS
DEFICITS BUT TO REJECT THE ADVICE OF AMERICAN
ECONOMIST MILTON FREIDMAN WHICH WOULD LEAD TO
UNEMPLOYMENT. IN REPLY EHRlich PROMISED TO STRIVE
FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT, ADDING THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE
IN REVOLUTIONS; ANY NEW ECONOMIC PROGRAM WOULD BE
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IMPLEMENTED IN STAGES. OVER AT AGRICULTURE,
THE NEW MINISTER, GENERAL (RES.) ARIEL SHARON,
DECLARED HIS MAIN JOB WOULD BE TO INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF SETTLEMENTS. HE SAID SETTLEMENT
ACTIVITY WOULD HELP REVIVE ZIONISM. HE ENVISAGED
A STRING OF STEELEMENTS STRETCHING FROM THE
GOLAN TO SHAR ASH-SHAYKH.

2. ON ITS FIRST FULL DAY IN OFFICE THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A NUMBER OF PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, SEVERAL OF WHICH HAD BEEN RUMORED DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS. ELIYAHU BEN-ELISSAR, LIKUD SPOKESMAN WHO RAN THE PARTY'S TV ELECTION CAMPAIGN, WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. BEGIN'S LONG TIME PERSONAL SECRETARY, YEHIEL KADISHAI, WAS NAMED THE PRIME MINISTER'S BUREAU CHIEF VICE ELI MIZRACHI, WHO IN A SURPRISE APPOINTMENT WAS RETAINED IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AS POLITICAL ADVISOR.

3. HERE IS A ROUNDUP OF OTHER CHANGES ANNOUNCED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS: LIBERAL PARTY MK YEHEZKEL FLOMIN WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE AND LIBERAL PARTY SPOKESMAN SAMMY TOEG WAS NAMED SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO MINISTER EHRLICH. HIS DUTIES WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE ACTING AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE MINISTRY. THE INCUMBENT DIRECTOR GENERAL, AMIRON SIVAN, IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR, AND MOST OF THE OTHER SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WILL REMAIN IN PLACE.

4. HERUT MK GENERAL (RES) MORDECHAI ZIPORI WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPOINTED DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER, A POSITION THAT HAD BEEN VACANT UNDER OUTGOING DEFENSE MINISTER PERES (GENERAL ISRAEL TAL HAS BEEN SERVING AS "ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER"). ZIPORI'S APPOINTMENT, LIKE THAT OF FLOMIN, WILL REQUIRE APPROVAL OF THE CABINET. YESTERDAY'S JERUSALEM POST REPORTED THAT DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN HAS ASKED HAARETZ'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT DAN MARGALIT TO BE HIS SPOKESMAN AND PERSONAL ADVISOR. MARGALIT, WHO BROKE THE STORY OF THE RABIN U.S. BANK ACCOUNT, IS BEING REPLACED IN WASHINGTON BY VETERAN HAARETZ JOURNALIST YOEL MARCUS. MARGALIT WOULD REPLACE NAFTALI LAVIE, A LONG-TIME DAYAN ASSOCIATE, WHO HAS MOVED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO BE SPOKESMAN.

5. AT THE CHANGE-OVER CEREMONY AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, DAYAN ANNOUNCED, IN ADDITION TO THE LAVIE APPOINTMENT, HIS CHOICE OF ELI RUBENSTEIN AS HIS BUREAU CHIEF. HE ALSO SAID THAT TWO NAMES WERE IN THE RUNNING FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL TO SUCCEED SHLOMO AVINERI: DIRECTOR OF THE MOD PURCHASING MISSION IN NEW YORK, YOSEF CIECHANOVER, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR

GENERAL EVRON (WE UNDERSTAND THAT CIECHANOVER IS DAYAN'S FIRST CHOICE). DAYAN SAID THAT BEYOND THESE PLANNED FEW CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY. THE NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ZULUN HAMMER, ALSO INDICATED THAT HE PLANNED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE TOP RANKS OF HIS MINISTRY FOR THE TIME BEING. (BEGIN'S EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GEULA COHEN AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION-- A MOVE THAT GENERATED HEAVY CRITICISM IN THE NRP-- HAS APPARENTLY BEEN ANNULLED.)

6. IN AN EDITORIAL YEDIOT AHARONOT WELCOMED BEGIN'S ALLEGED INTENTION TO APPOINT AN ARAB TO THE SUPREME COURT--NOT ELSEWHERE REPORTED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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7. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THERE WILL BE LITTLE CHANGE, IF ANY, IN THE STAFFING PATTERNS OF THE ISRAELIS IN RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS THAT REPLACEMENTS WILL BE NAMED FOR GENERALS ORLY, HAGOEL, OR MAIMOUN, MILITARY COMMANDERS FOR THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP RESPECTIVELY. (MAIMOUN IS KNOWN AS A "NEGATIVE MAN" BY THE GAZANS, WHO FEEL THAT HE IS PARTICULARLY STERN, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF HIS SEPHARDIC ORIGIN.) ONE

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SOURCE TOLD US THAT THE INFLUENCE OF COLONEL MENACHEM MILSON, ARAB AFFAIRS ADVISOR TO THE WEST BANK MILITARY GOVERNOR, HAS INCREASED SINCE THE ELECTIONS. HE REASONED THAT MILSON'S FIRM VIEWS WILL CARRY MORE WEIGHT IN THE ABSENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTER PERES, WHOSE PERSONAL POLITICAL AMBITIONS SOMETIMES OVERRODE MILGOV RECOMMENDATIONS. COLONEL DAVID FARHI, WHO IS GENERAL ORLY'S ARAB AFFAIRS ADVISER, IS CONFIDENT OF RETAINING HIS POST. PINCHAS GONEN, THE MFA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORIES, HAS RECENTLY TAKEN LEAVE TO STUDY ARABIC LANGUAGE FULL TIME, AND THUS WOULD APPEAR CERTAIN OF STAYING ON.

8. COMMENT: THE FULL EXTENT OF PERSONNEL CHANGES
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THAT CAN BE EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIONS IS NOT YET CLEAR BUT THE EARLY INDICATIONS, AS SHOWN ABOVE, POINT TO ONLY A MINIMAL TURNOVER. SINCE THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR AN ISRAELI OPPOSITION PARTY COMING TO POWER, THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE APPROACHING THE QUESTION OF STAFFING CHANGES WITH CAUTION. FOR ONE THING, THE PARTY IS NOT BLESSED WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF TALENT OR EXPERIENCE. IN CONVERSATION WITH LIKUDNIKS PRIOR TO THE INVESTITURE OF BEGIN'S GOVERNMENT, WHEN WE ASKED ABOUT PERSONNEL CHANGES THE REPLIES WERE BAGUE AND HESITANT. REFLECTING THE NOVELTY TO ISRAEL OF THE SITUATION, THEY IN TURN INQUIRED FROM US ABOUT THE EXTENT OF TURN-OVER WHEN A NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION TAKES OFFICE, IN TERMS OF ITS RELEVANCY TO ISRAEL'S SITUATION. ALTHOUGH MK YOSEF ROM, WHO HEADED THE LIKUD'S TRANSITION COMMITTEE, HAD BEEN WORKING FOR SOME TIME ON COMPILING A DOSSIER OF CANDIDATES FOR TOP GOVERNMENT POSTS, WE DOUBT THAT THE KNIFE OF

CHANGE WILL CUT VERY DEEP INTO THE BUREAUCRACY.
AT THE OUTSET AT LEAST, THE NEW GOVERNMENT CAN
BE EXPECTED TO RELY HEAVILY ON THE EXPERTISE
OF THE INCUMBENT CIVIL SERVANTS. THIS SHOULD
SERVE TO FACILITATE THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW
GOVERNMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, EMPLOYMENT, SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770621/aaaaarxg.tel
Line Count: 231
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2040503
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SURVEY OF EARLY PERSONNEL CHANGES EFFECTED BY BEGIN GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PGOV, IS, (BEGIN, MENAHEM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f694977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009